The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news materials and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and reflects official information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1525 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 2, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 30, NO. 27

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Senator Burton K. Wheeler is coming dangerously close to forfeiting labor's good-will-and respect. If he persists in what is apparently his present intention of running for the presidency on a third-party ticket with the support of John L. Lewis, he will thereby sever friendly relations with the American Federation of Labor.

Last February the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor issued a statement on political policy which contained this significant paragraph:

"Any candidate for public office who seeks and accepts the support of the C.I.O. and places himself in bondage to its leader has received the 'kiss of death' and is doomed to defeat."

This applies to Senator Wheeler with full force and effect despite his long and favorable labor record. If the Senator leads himself to a third-party movement in this time of national emergency and becomes the spokesman of the subversive elements which have rallied themselves around John L. Lewis, he thereby automatically cancels every claim to friendship with the five million loyal, patriotic members of the American Federation of Labor. And, unless we miss our guess, the members of the C.I.O., who are revolting in increasing numbers from Lewis' political leadership, will turn thumbs down on Wheeler too.

Everyone Wants Peace

Consider for a moment Senator Wheeler's recent radio speech in which he went to bat for Lewis' discourse "peace" and Wendell Willkie, Republican Presidential nominee, as "interventionists."

In this bitter speech, Senator Wheeler sought to appropriate the "peace" issue for himself and seemed willing to force this country into war.

The American Federation of Labor does not believe that President Roosevelt or Mr. Willkie have any such intentions. Organized labor regards both these men as patriotic Americans. It looks questioningly at Senator Wheeler's "peace" slogans and at his "peace" supporters because of the queer hooking between him and Lewis and the equally suspicious alliance between Lewis and the Communist Party.

We know that the Communist Party is organizing "Yanks Are Not Coming" committees in every part of the country. Is Senator Wheeler looking for support from this quarter? For his own sake, we would hate to believe it.

But what is the purpose of a third party in this campaign and what good would Senator Wheeler's candidacy on a third-party ticket serve?

Why is John L. Lewis giving Senator Wheeler his support and why is he jeopardizing the welfare of C.I.O. members by seeking to involve them in a third-party movement?

What is behind the scenes of all this political maneuvering?

We Want No Third Party

First, let us examine the Wheeler-Lewis statements on their face. They say they want peace. So do we all. But do they want peace with Hitler and Stalin? Do they want the United States to make the same kind of peace as France made with Germany? Don't they realize that the totalitarian forces of Europe are the sworn enemies of American democracy? Do they want America to bind itself to that foe? Do they want us to link ourselves into false security by prattling of peace when the hard realities of the situation show us that sooner or later the dictators of Europe intend to attack this country with every weapon they possess? Is it not the duty of America's leaders to prepare for that day so that if we are attacked we can meet force with greater force? Or would Wheeler and Lewis rather have America surrender submissively to dictation?

Secondly, what chance would a third party have this year? Dr. Mr. Lewis and Senator Wheeler think they can prey on the timidity, credulity and gullibility of enough American voters to win? Do they think their offers of fabulous pensions to the aged, promises of imaginary jobs to the unemployed, their special benefits to the Negroes can elect them to office? We have said that Lewis believes this country is headed for collapse and is preparing to ride into power as dictator at the moment of chaos. That is the only explanation of his actions. But does Senator Wheeler share such opinions and ambitions? We doubt it.

Then there is only this alternative. Senator Wheeler may believe he can take enough votes away from the Democratic Party to defeat it at the polls. He does not like President Roosevelt. That is obvious. Neither does John L. Lewis. Between them they may be planning a dark attack on the President's popularity. It may even be possible that after Lewis' recent visit to Philadelphia, certain Republican interests may be inclined to help them, with funds.

This may be smart politics, but it is bad Americanism.

The American Federation of Labor is not taking sides in the Presidential election. It does believe, however, that it is time to end the old Democratic or Republican candidates win. But it will certainly have nothing to do with a third party because it regards such a movement as inimical to the best interests of our country.

President Asks Excess Profits Tax To Finance National Defense Plan

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt called on Congress to enact "as sharply graduated excess profits tax, to be applied to all individuals and corporations without discrimination" to help finance the national defense program.

Just the bare recommendation that the tax be enacted was contained in the message the President sent to the Capitol after he had conferred at the White House with congressional leaders. The President said:

"To the Congress of the United States:

"We are engaged in a great financial effort to build up our national defenses to meet any and every potential attack.

"We are asking even our humblest citizens to contribute their mite.

"It is our duty to see that the burden is equitably distributed according to ability to pay, so that a few do not gain from the sacrifices of the many.

"I therefore, recommend to the Congress the enactment of a steeply graduated excess profits tax to be applied to all individuals, and all corporate organizations without discrimination."

In announcing the imminence of the tax message, Mr. Rayburn said the levy would follow that of the World War era which, he commented, "raised a lot of money."

At the Capitol, Speaker Bankhead said the excess profits tax legislation was designed to prevent creation of "war millionaires."

AFL Newspaper Union Wins Higher Pay In Chicago Herald-American Contract

Chicago, Ill.—In a renewal of its contract with the management of the Herald-American, the Newspaper Commercial Associates, Union No. 21662, American Federation of Labor, obtained for its members provisions which make the agreement the best of its kind signed with any newspaper anywhere in the nation, it was announced by Edward J. Neary, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Victor Olander, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, and Daniel D. Carnell, attorney for the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Illinois State Federation of Labor, for their aid in the negotiations.

Approximately $41,000. The salary increases are effective immediately.

It was signed for the union by I. J. Braverman, president; Andre Ferdinand, secretary-treasurer; Julius Cohen, Charles J. Moeller and Ben Ostrow, negotiating committee, and for the management by Frank B. White, president, and C. D. Fulton, secretary.

Full text was given by the union to John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Victor Olander, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, and Daniel D. Carnell, attorney for the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Illinois State Federation of Labor.

TELEGRAPHERS GAIN SHORTER WORK WEEK

New York, N. Y.—Frank B. Powers, international president of the Commercial Telegraphers Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, announced that agreements had been reached with the Associated Press and the International News Service covering nearly 1,000 telegraphers.

"The Associated Press agreement reduces hours from 40 to 37½ for a five-day week to conform with the United Press, whose agreement runs over until 1941," Mr. Powers said.

"Basic scales are unchanged, but about 100 individual operators will be reclassified and receive from $2.50 to $20 increases per week. Hereafter there will be no operator-attendants at bureaus.

"Overtime or monotone at the full scale, which accounts for the increase of $20 per week in some cases. A 100 per cent closed shop prevails in both agreements. Severance pay up to 24 weeks was agreed to.

"The International News Service has agreed to increases of from $2.50 to $7.50 per week, with a 36 2/3 hour, 5-day week."

President Roosevelt Names Tobin White House Aid on Labor Problems

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt appointed Daniel J. Tobin, aggressive President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, to serve as one of his confidential administrative assistants in the White House.

Mr. Tobin will act as liason officer between the President and all American Federation of Labor unions engaged in the national defense program.

The American Federation of Labor has pledged full support and cooperation to the Government of the United States in the defense program. It will be part of Mr. Tobin's job to see to it that everything runs smoothly and that such cooperation is kept on a high plane of effectiveness.

Mr. Tobin's new post was created by Congress about two weeks ago when it authorized the President to name six administrative assistants to help him handle the vast amount of administrative work that pours into the White House daily. Mr. Tobin is the fifth of such assistants to be appointed.

The day before Mr. Tobin's appointment was announced, President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor held an important conference with President Roosevelt at the White House.

The President assured them that the Government will enforce the provisions of the Walsh-Healey Act and all other protective laws for labor in the defense program.

Armed with this assurance, the American Federation of Labor's heads went to Government departments which have been working at violations of these regulations and obtained pledges of prompt corrective action.

Mr. Tobin brings to his new job a life-time of experience in the labor movement, a driving energy that will sweep away all obstacles in his path and a cooperative disposition that is bound to make his efforts successful. His appointment was hailed unanimously by all labor leaders as evidence of the Government's good will toward the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions.

Eliminate Clashes With Strikers, Green Asks F.B.I. Police Graduates

Washington, D. C.—Violent clashes between pickets and strikers should be eliminated altogether, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor told the graduating class of the National Police Academy conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Green was invited to deliver the graduation address by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the F.B.I., who gave high praise to the A. F. of L. President for his long services to labor and for his patriotic devotion to the cause of Americanism.

Recalling that in the past relations between organized labor and local police forces have been in some instances marked with bitterness and violence, Mr. Green called *for a new* understanding.

"Today, when the laws and the courts of our land have fully guaranteed the right of peaceful picketing," he said, "when the abuse of the writ of injunction in labor disputes has been prohibited by Federal statutory laws, when peaceful strife is being reduced to a minimum and collective bargaining around the conference table is becoming the rule in industrial-labor relations; today, when the police forces of our cities are winning their fight for independence from political machines—today, we can be friends and we want to be friends."

Mr. Green called on the representative police officials in attendance to stamp out racketeering and "the fear of strikes as fearlessly as you would stamp out racketeering in business or in any other walk of life."

He pledged the cooperation of city central labor councils and State Federations of Labor to the police in this endeavor and promised that he would personally do everything in his power to further the cause of justice.

Turning to world problems, Mr. Green said he held these truths to be self evident:

"1. That the various brands of totalitarianism which have engulfed Continental Europe—whether they label be Nazi, Communist or Fascist —are hostile to America and to everything which Americans hold dear. They are contradictory to our form of government.

"2. That these enemies of America have conquered free, democratic nations and instituted a reign of terror over almost an entire continent not alone by force of arms but by a carefully planned campaign of organized treachery.

"3. That here in America the totalitarian nations of Europe have established thriving branches and are encouraging their followers to work on the morale of the United States in every way they can.

"4. That such nefarious activities must be stopped by every legal means in the interests of national safety and national defense.

"Toward this end, I advocate that the Communist Party and the Nazi Bund in this country be outlawed by Congress."

Mr. Green pointed out that the A. F. of L. had cheerfully assented to the President's request for the transfer of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization from the Labor Department to the Department of Justice and had aided in all other national defense measures. He added:

"We consider it shameful that a labor group, the affiliates of the American Federation of Labor, bitterly opposed these measures and lent itself to unwarranted attacks on the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

In a tribute to the F.B.I., Mr. Green concluded:

"This agency of our Government inspired new respect for law enforcement among our people by prompt and thoroughly stamping out kidnapers of children. . . . I believe that with your aid the F.B.I. will win an even more glorious place for itself in history by promptly and thoroughly stamping out the representatives of subversive forces who would kidnap our liberties."

CIO Caught In Jurisdictional Dispute Between Bridges and Retail Employes

New York, N. Y.—The CIO is caught in the middle of a serious jurisdictional dispute.

Although it has repeatedly criticized the American Federation of Labor for such disputes, it was disclosed here that the CIO now finds itself deeply embarrassed by the rival claims of Harry Bridges and the United Retail and Wholesale Employes Union for jurisdiction over employes of Bridges' longshoremen's union.

Bridges' Longshoremen's Union on the West Coast has invaded the interior and sought to organize warehouses. The U.R.W.E. claims Bridges had no right to do so. Its protests were filed with the C.I.O. Executive Board which ducked the issue and failed to decide the dispute, despite the fact that a sub-committee had ruled in favor of the U.R.W.E.

It was reported that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers supported the position of the small protesting union, but that Bridges' influence with the C.I.O. Executive Board was so powerful that the board failed to take any action on the complaints.

Bringing its dispute with Bridges into the open, the U.R.W.E. made public the text of the report of the sub-committee which it regarded as "complete vindication" of its jurisdictional claims. The union pointed out that Bridges' jurisdiction extends only along the waterfront and demanded that he be forbidden to reach inland and order workers who do not properly belong in the Longshoremen's organization.

80,000 Apply, 800 Hired; Where's Labor Shortage?

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The New York Navy Yard, in Brooklyn, where 80,000 men have applied for jobs since May 1, has hired 800 skilled workers to increase the yard force to 12,700 and is planning to put on its third eight-hour shift to speed construction of the battleship Iowa and other vessels, it was disclosed here. Recent hirings have averaged sixty a day, according to Capt. Charles F. Bass, industrial manager of the yard, and will continue at that rate until the force is up to about 15,000 men.

TRANSIT UNION ASKS $50 MONTHLY PENSION

Chicago, Ill.—A temporary pension plan for employes of the proposed unified transit company was submitted to the city council transportation committee by Joseph J. Kehoe, president of Local 308, Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America, A. F. of L. affiliate.

Speaking for the surface and elevated lines' employes, Mr. Kehoe proposed that the company pay monthly pensions of $50 a month for life for all employes of the new system who have served for 25 years, and fines for 30 years or more and are over 65 years of age. The workers would retire at their own option or could be pensioned by the company for old age or inability to work. The cost of the temporary plan would be borne entirely by the company. A permanent plan is worked out. The permanent plan would require contributions from both the workers and the company to build up a pension fund for old-age pensions. Mr. Kehoe said that 1,700 out of the new company's 21,000 employes would be eligible for retirement immediately.

News Briefs

RAIL LABOR, MANAGEMENT, UNITE ON DEFENSE PLANS

Washington, D. C.—Railroad labor unions and management announced the naming of committees to handle national defense problems and to cooperate with Ralph Budd, transportation member of the National Defense Commission.

The labor committee is composed of C. E. Wilson, chairman of the Railway Labor Executives' Association; George M. Harrison, president of the Railway Clerks' Union; B. M. Jewell, president of the Railway Employes' Department of the American Federation of Labor, and James J. Delaney, president of the Masters, Mates and Pilots' Association of America.

Members of the management committee are John J. Pelley, president of the Association of American Railroads; E. J. Engel, president of Aichison, Topeka & Santa Fe; E. E. Norris, president of Southern Railway, and M. W. Clement, president of the Pennsylvania.

CANADIAN SEAMEN WIN WAGE BOOST CONTRACT

Toronto, Can.—Seven Great Lakes shipping companies signed agreements with the Canadian Seamen's Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, providing wage raises, increased manning scales, preferential hiring, and the hiring of an extra deckhand on ships sailing in the lower St. Lawrence Canal. Monthly wages of wheelsmen and oilers are increased by $2.50. Previously monthly scales ranged from $50 to $120.

LT. GOV. POLETTI QUITS NATIONAL LAWYERS' GUILD

Virginia Beach, Va.—Lt. Gov. Charles Poletti of New York said he was resigning as National Lawyers' Guild because he understood some members of the guild "were more interested in Communism than anything else."

Mr. Poletti said he predicated his action on the resignation from the guild of Assistant Secretary of State Berle and Attorney General Jackson, whom "I consider two very fine liberals."

N. Y. ELECTRICAL UNION RE-ELECTS VAN ARSDALE

New York, N. Y.—Henry Van Arsdale, Jr., was formally renamed business manager of Local No. 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, A. F. of L. affiliate, two years before his term expired. Van Arsdale was unopposed. To express their views on his conduct of the union's affairs, was re-elected by a margin of more than five to one. He received 9,169 votes, while five other candidates polled a total of only 1,823 votes.

In questioning on the election Mr. Van Arsdale said the vote constituted "a direct and forceful reply" to the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice, the National Association of Manufacturers Association and other critics of the union's policies.

Mr. Van Arsdale said the vote was a mandate to go forward in a more intense effort to organize the unorganized, to win better pay, shorter hours and improved working conditions not only for the members but for workers everywhere," he declared. "Moreover, this vote is an emphatic endorsement of the union's policy to aid the "president's armament program in every way possible."

REMINGTON RAND, INC., ENDS 9 COMPANY UNIONS

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board issued an order, based on a stipulation, requiring Remington Rand, Inc., of Buffalo, N. Y., to withdraw all recognition from and completely disestablish nine employe associations in its plants at Elmira, Tonawanda, North Tonawanda, Ilion and Syracuse, N. Y., Middletown, Conn., and Marcus Hook, Ohio.

The company also agreed to cease urging, persuading and warning its employes not to become or remain members of any labor organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor or any other organization of their own choosing.

Agreement was made to entry of a consent decree by the Second U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals enforcing the board's order.

35 CENT MINIMUM ASKED IN LEATHER GOODS TRADE

Washington, D. C.—The luggage and leather goods committee established by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 notified Col. Philip B. Fleming, Wage and Hour Administrator, that it would recommend a minimum wage rate of 35 cents an hour for those employed in the industry.

MEANY PLEDGES AFL WILL AID DEFENSE

But Demands Labor Laws Be Fully Safeguarded.

Alton, Ill.—Secretary-Treasurer George Meany declared that the American Federation of Labor is "wholeheartedly" and unreservedly back of every effort on the part of our Government to achieve a completely adequate national defense."

Addressing the 64th annual convention here of the American Flint Glass Workers Union, Mr. Meany warned, however, that "gains made by labor in the past must not be sacrificed in our efforts to achieve preparedness."

He called for "representative participation of organized labor in the formulation and administration of standards and procedures underlying emergency defense measures."

He declared that in the presence of widespread unemployment, minimum wage, maximum hour and other basic labor standards must be maintained in full force. To do otherwise in the name of economic welfare of our people."

He insisted that it is not only the desire of American labor, but the will of the American people to leave labor both free and unhampered in its right to organize and bargain collectively—"intact and inviolate."

Reiterating that unemployment is still the nation's central economic problem, Mr. Meany outlined a four-point program for hastening re-employment. He urged:

1. A long range program of permanent public works.

2. Expansion of low rent housing and slum clearance.

3. Federal insurance, through the R. F. C., of loans by private institutions for the purpose of expand production and create new jobs.

4. Acceptance of the shorter work week and the shorter work week as a practical means of spreading available work and reducing unemployment.

Referring to labor division, Mr. Meany said:

"Many of us who survey the future of the American labor movement are deeply concerned with the effect and consequences of the breach in the ranks of organized labor. I say to them—Take heart! The day is close at hand when we shall again have a united labor movement in America under the banner of the American Federation of Labor.

"Every effort has been made by the American Federation of Labor to heal the breach and reunite our movement. Time and again our efforts were stalemated by the obdurate refusal of the leader of the new CIO to compose the differences on equitable and reasonable grounds."

Referring the way in which peace negotiations were wrecked by John L. Lewis, Mr. Meany concluded: "The world was startled when the CIO were misled into the ranks of dual unionism are rapidly discovering that the CIO has been created not for the advancement of labor, but for the advancement of John L. Lewis. Having gotten the bitter taste of domineering dictatorship of the C.I.O. organization they are returning in larger and larger numbers to the American Federation of Labor."

America's Leaders Join In Extolling William Green as "Labor Statesman"

AFL President Hailed At Brilliant Testimonial Dinner.

New York, N. Y.—Leaders in public life, religion and labor joined in a mighty chorus of praise and tribute to William Green, "America's labor statesman," at a brilliant testimonial dinner to the President of the American Federation of Labor in the Commodore Hotel.

The dinner was held for the benefit of the Leon Blum Colony in Palestine, a place where Jewish workers fleeing from Hitler's terrorism may find opportunity to live and work in peace in the Jewish National Homeland.

Responding to the encomiums heaped upon him (see box below), Mr. Green pledged to the labor movement in Palestine the support and assistance of the five million members of the American Federation of Labor.

Highlights of his address were:

1. Sweeping denunciation of Nazism, Communism and Fascism as "different labels for the same brand of totalitarianism."

2. Enthusiastic pledge of support to President Roosevelt in the national defense program.

3. Stirring demand for outlawing the Communist Party and the Nazi Bund in this country.

Mr. Green declared the Allies could have saved themselves if they had been courageous enough to save the soul of Germany. They are now, he said, paying the penalty "for closing their eyes to human suffering and permitting a madman to run amuck."

Calling for a drive against the "Fifth Column" in the interests of national defense, Mr. Green added:

"We can no longer doubt that Communist Russia and Nazi Germany are financing, directing and encouraging organized treachery in the United States and in other countries of the Western Hemisphere."

In explaining the A. F. of L.'s policy on national defense, Mr. Green said:

"The five million loyal members of the American Federation of Labor are ready to make sacrifices and to assume any obligations that the citizens of this country may be called upon to bear for the sake of defending and preserving America.

"We do not believe that the leaders of our country are trying to drive us into the present European War. We are firmly convinced that the sincere and patriotic objective of the national defense program is to protect our country from having war forced upon us. We are willing to contribute our full entry into war, should be extended to the Allies, not only because of our traditional sympathy with their cause, but in the true interests of our own national defense. If the Allies can still defeat their totalitarian aggressors, the threat to our safety automatically ends. If they can prolong their resistance, weaken the power of the dictators and keep the war in Europe, it will give us time to strengthen our defenses and keep the war away from our shores."

Urging workers to unite for the sake of preserving America, Mr. Green concluded:

"We can accomplish this purpose and realize this objective if we ourselves are inspired by the sufferings of our fellow men and firmly resolve to protect and preserve, with our lives if necessary, the priceless blessings of liberty, freedom and democracy in America."

Tributes to President Green

Following are some of the tributes paid to President William Green at the testimonial dinner given him by the sponsors of the Leon Blum Colony in Palestine:

VICE PRESIDENT GARNER—Few men in public life have done more to merit the degree of respect and affection in which President Green is held today.

SECRETARY OF STATE HULL—For years he has been engaged in the effort to improve the lot and the welfare of the American workers.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WALLACE—You have earned the gratitude not only of trade-unionists, but of other wage-earners who enjoy advantages made possible by labor.

POSTMASTER GENERAL FARLEY—I have found him always high-minded in purpose, sincere in viewpoint, honest and fair in his approach to the issues which he must deal.

GOVERNOR LEHMAN—Every righteous cause has enlisted his sympathy and self-sacrificing support and seldom have we found in William Green a great champion. May I, in behalf of those men and women you have helped, offer you sincere thanks and our deep affection and gratitude.

SENATOR WAGNER—Through your efforts the lives of millions of people in America and elsewhere have been made richer.

SENATOR MEAD—Your name is a household word. You are the patriotic organization he represents.

MAYOR LA GUARDIA—We are all honored in having with us tonight our friend and brother, William Green. We offer him our sincere tribute.

RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE—May I offer you my hand and heart in gratitude for what you have done for Palestine and the Jewish people.

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN—We wish to express here our high regard for America's Labor Leader No. 1, William Green. He is truly a statesman of American democracy.

LOUIS EGGAL—We are grateful to William Green, not only for his services to our people, but also for his courageous struggle in America for the cause of labor and for his championship of our democratic way of life.

MATTHEW WOLL—We, of the American Federation of Labor, proudly and gladly here pay tribute to the distinguished dinner to one who has at all times championed the rightful claims of all oppressed and persecuted peoples.

DAVID DUBINSKY—Just as we are fortunate in having at the head of our Government Franklin D. Roosevelt, we are equally fortunate in having at the head of the American Federation of Labor, William Green.

MAX ZARITSKY—We do him honor today not merely for the leadership he has given labor, but for the battle he has waged and is waging in behalf of the harried and oppressed everywhere.

ABRAHAM CAHAN—I love William Green as a leader, I love him as a man.